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“Organization”



“Stewardship”



Anne Jackson,  
ChristChurch Presbyterian  
Atlanta, GA  
(Bobby Jo Brooks Photography)

## From the Director's Desk

I think it all started when I turned 50 in November. Thinking that my life could use an organizational makeover, I solicited the help of a friend to coach me through the process. Somewhere along the way, however, I began to realize that the end goal was not really greater organization of my life, but wiser stewardship of the resources God has graciously given to me. This includes, at times, being more organized. And at other times, it means letting go of organization for higher priorities. Categorizing and arranging and storing things can really help me to be more productive at tasks. But it can also impede my relationships when organizing moves from being a tool to being an end in and of itself. Stewarding God's resources means more than just “getting more stuff done.” ***It means intentionally arranging your life in such a way that it creates a conduit through which God's amazing grace flows into all that you do.*** At times then, that actually means “getting less stuff done.”

Sometimes, I think we make the same mistakes in our congregational ministries that I make in my personal life. We want a plan. We want an organization. We want categories, and labels, and parameters. A plan can help. And organization can help. And having an area of ministry focus can help. But they are not ends in and of themselves. When they've become the focus of my activities, I usually sense that the power of God does not seem to be flowing through the ministry. I'm not saying it isn't there. But it often feels more like a trickle than a flow.

People are God's most precious resources on the face of the earth. How are you stewarding the relationships in your life and in your ministry? Are you categorizing, labeling and defining? Or are you intentionally arranging your life in such a way that it creates a conduit of God's amazing grace for those you are privileged to encounter?

In Jesus' Name, Steph

## Celebration! ChristChurch, Atlanta GA

On April 13, 2010, Anne Jackson was critically injured in an automobile accident. Against all odds, Anne survived, but sustained a severe brain injury and continues to make good progress toward recovery. Anne's mom, Kathryn, writes: “Amidst such sadness and grief, we have experienced profound joy from being the recipients of care from our church and community.”

The Jacksons attend ChristChurch Presbyterian in Atlanta, GA. Knowing that the anniversary date would be a challenging one, the church held a celebration service to thank God for preserving Anne's life and for her current recovery. In Anne's Caring Bridge Journal Kathryn recently noted: “We just came home from the service our church held for Anne. What a difference a year makes! This time last year, people were gathering at church pleading for God to spare Anne's life. Tonight's celebration service was a stark contrast! Anne climbed the stairs to the platform at the front of our sanctuary (with the help of her former PT) and said into the microphone, ‘I made it!’ A year ago, if you would have told us that Anne would be on stage—talking into a microphone... Well, we wouldn't have believed it. Wow! The church staff did an amazing job putting together this service. The music was awesome, and the words shared were extremely meaningful. The sanctuary was full of people we love and who love Anne. It was a glorious time.” Please keep praying for Anne and her family.



## Frequently Asked Questions



We need your help to create our "Getting Started Guide" FAQs

This newsletter's recommended resource is going to be a great one! As soon as we finish writing it! As part of the 2010 Women in the Church Love Gift for MNA Special Needs Ministries, we're in the midst of putting together *Gospel and Disability Educational Gift Packs* (GDEGPs) for 500 PCA churches.

While we're still negotiating the contents of the package, one of the resources we would like to provide is a "Getting Started Guide." Our approach to this guide will likely be the use of a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) format. This is the part where you come in... In order to provide the most helpful information possible, we would love to know YOUR most frequently asked questions about starting

a disability ministry in your local congregation. Here are a few examples:

- Are you curious about where to find curriculum?
- Are you stymied about how to get your Session on board?
- Do you want some suggestions on what gift mix works best on a Special Needs Team?
- Are you confused about what even constitutes a "disability?"

Please "fire away" by going to our website: [www.pcamna.org/specialneeds](http://www.pcamna.org/specialneeds) and clicking on the FAQs button! You can submit as many questions as you'd like!

**Deadline: 31 August 2011!!**

## Ongoing and Upcoming Opportunities!



No "Free Lunches" but we do have FREE Gospel and Disability Educational Gift packs! Register TODAY!

Is your church interested in receiving a FREE Gospel and Disability Educational Gift Pack at the end of this year? If so, please don't miss the opportunity to go to our website and register NOW!

FREE gift packs will be available to the first 500 PCA churches that register. After we reach 500, links will be provided for where to purchase each item in the gift pack—but no further FREE gift packs will be distributed. So, come one, come all—but most of all—come soon! Registrations will be taken online at our website: [www.pcamna.org/specialneeds](http://www.pcamna.org/specialneeds) beginning on **15 June 2010**.

Gift packs are scheduled to be delivered by January 2012.

As for my travel schedule, I'll be speaking at the following events for the remainder of 2011:

- July 13-15<sup>th</sup>, MNA Church Planting Conference, Philadelphia, PA (networking)
- July 17<sup>th</sup>, Manor Presbyterian Church, Cochranville, PA
- September 23-25<sup>th</sup>, Sycamore PCA Women's Retreat, Richmond, VA
- October 7-9<sup>th</sup>, Amazing Grace 360 Women's Conference, Atlanta, GA
- October 10-11<sup>th</sup>, TBD, Chattanooga, TN
- October 12<sup>th</sup>, Covenant College (Chapel), Lookout Mountain, TN
- October 29<sup>th</sup>, LCCD Event, Lancaster, PA

If you are interested in having someone from MNA Special Needs Ministries come and speak to your congregation, please let us know!

## Your Prayers Matter...

*"Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful to me and answer me."*

*Psalm 27:7*

- Please pray for wisdom as we evaluate items for inclusion in the GDEGPs. This includes identifying resources and negotiating prices.
- Please pray for discernment as we begin to identify our MNA SNM Trainers and choose speakers for our Train-the-Trainers events in 2012.
- Praise God for continued growing interest in this ministry arena and for beginning to provide ministry partners for Joel Wallace's support.
- Praise God for the faithful families and churches who give to this work of "making the Gospel—the good news of the coming of the kingdom—accessible to all, in word and deed."